
**TRANSPORTATION CONFORMITY WORKING GROUP
of the
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS'**

**October 24, 2006
Minutes**

THE FOLLOWING MINUTES ARE A SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE TRANSPORTATION CONFORMITY WORKING GROUP. AN AUDIOCASSETTE TAPE OF THE ACTUAL MEETING IS AVAILABLE FOR LISTENING IN SCAG'S OFFICE.

The Transportation Conformity Working Group held its meeting at the SCAG office in Los Angeles.

In Attendance:

Mahmoud Ahmadi	MMA
John Asuncion	SCAG
Grace Balmir	FHWA/FTA Metro Office
Jennifer Bergener	OCTA
Clay Hinkle	CH2M HILL
Lori Huddleston	LA MTA
Jessica Kirchner	SCAG
Thoa Lee	Caltrans
Betty Mann	SCAG
Jonathan Nadler	SCAG
Michelle Noch	FHWA
Sylvia Patsaouras	SCAG
Eyvonne Sells	AQMD
Arnie Sherwood	ITS Berkley/SCAG
Carla Wakecka	Transportation Corridor Agencies
Leann Williams	Caltrans 7

Via Teleconference:

Mike Brady	Caltrans Headquarters
Ben Cacatian	Ventura County APCD
Paul Fagan	Caltrans Dist. 8
Ilene Gallo	Caltrans Headquarters
Sandy Johnson	Caltrans, District 11
Ted Matley	FTA Region 9
Jean Mazur	FHA
Dennis Wade	CARB
Andrew Yoon	Caltrans District 7

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1.0 CALL TO ORDER

The Honorable Jennifer Bergener, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no public comments.

3.0 CONSENT CALENDAR

3.1 Approval Item

5.1.1 Approve September 26, 2006 Meeting Minutes

There were two corrections to the minutes: 1) include Carl Walecka, TCA, to the teleconference attendees, 2) change Transportation Communications Committee to Transportation Conformity Working Group in the block header. MOTION was made to APPROVE the minutes as amended. MOTION SECONDED and UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

4.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

4.1 RTIP Update

John Asuncion, SCAG, stated that the RTIP was approved by the Federal Agencies earlier in October. SCAG also received approval for the conformity determination for the RTIP, as well. The County Commissions are currently working on their amendment for the 2006 RTIP which will be forwarded to SCAG staff on December 3rd.

Staff anticipates that the first amendment, the State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP) Amendment, would get to the Federal Agencies relatively soon. The second amendment is anticipated sometime during the first of December.

4.2 RTP Update

There was no report this month.

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4.3 Review of PM Hot Spot Interagency Review Forms

The TCWG considered five interagency review forms to determine whether the projects were of air quality concern and required a qualitative PM Hot Spot analysis. The review concluded the following:

ORA000173: Not a POAQC
RIVLS08: Not a POAQC
SBDLS05: Not a POAQC
ORA020112: Not a POAQC
ORA000111: Not a POAQC

Jonathan Nadler, SCAG, inquired if these types of projects need to be reviewed by the group each time since they have been determined a number of times to not be projects of air quality concern. The committee agreed that they would try to categorize types of projects that generally may not be POAQC. This effort would start at the TCWG PM hot spot subgroup before being discussed at the TCWG.

4.4 Review of Qualitative PM Hot Spot Analysis

Andrew Yoon, Caltrans District 7 gave a brief summary on the analysis on LA0D45.

The committee concluded that staff would inquire with Karina O'Conner, EPA, if she had any further comments and if she does they will be discussed at next weeks subcommittee meeting. If she does not, staff will move forward and announce that the committee found the analysis deemed acceptable for NEPA circulation.

4.5 PM Hot Spot Process

Jonathan Nadler, SCAG, announced that Tony Louka was not available to speak on the workshop held in San Bernardino last week. Mr. Nadler stated that it was very well attended and both sessions went well.

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4.6 TCM Update

Ben Cacatian, Ventura County APCD, stated that the VCAPCD is developing a new Air Quality Management Plan for the federal 8-hour ozone standard. As required by the Clean Air Act, the APCD has performed a review of Reasonably Available Control Measures (RACM).

The APCD stated with a list of candidate RACM which was prepared in consultation with SCAG. The TCMs on the list were derived from those identified in the Clean Air Act, other MPO's, and other air districts. The RACM has been reviewed by staff at the Transportation Commission, BCTC, and the Transportation Technical Advisory Committee, TTAC, and the Transit Operators Committee.

Mr. Cacatian noted that in order for TCMs to be considered as RACM, they must be both technical and economically feasible, and they must advance the attainment date by at least one year. Based on the APCD's comprehensive review of the TCM's, none of the TCM's that were determined to be infeasible met the criteria for RACM. The APCD expects that implementing the TCM's identified as feasible will not advance the attainment day one year.

Ventura APCD anticipates having the draft of the 8-hour AQMP complete by early January 2007.

4.7 AQMP Update

Eyvonne Sells, AQMD, stated that she was unable to provide a presentation on the draft AQMP as a result of the AQMD's technical staff holding workshops within the basin.

An Ozone Roundtable has been scheduled for October 31. The purpose of the Roundtable is for the AQMD to try to find any and all potential emission reductions.

The comment deadline for the draft is December 1, 2006. The AQMD hopes to have the draft final released the first week in January 2007 and adoption in April 2007. The AQMP is available at the AQMD and TCWG

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websites and libraries. The AQMD is trying to put a presentation on the AQMP for next months TCWG agenda.

5.0 CHAIR'S REPORT

Jennifer Bergener thanked the individuals involved in putting together the workshop.

6.0 INFORMATION SHARING

Jean Mazur, FHWA, stated that there was a recent District of Columbia court decision that vacated a provision of the conformity rule regarding areas that have an emissions budget based on the 1-hour ozone standard. The decision says that if you have 1-hour ozone budgets, you must use them and cannot use the interim emissions test.

7.0 ADJOURNMENT

The Honorable Jennifer Bergener, adjourned the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

The next Transportation Conformity Working Group meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 28, 2006 at the SCAG office in downtown Los Angeles.